



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

REPORT OF THE WORKING PARTY ON

Assistance with the Cost of Boarding Education



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Working Party on Assistance with the Cost of Boarding Education

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REPORT

*To the Right Honourable Sir David Eccles, K.C.V.O., M.P.,
Minister of Education*

INTRODUCTION

1. We were appointed in May 1959 with the following terms of reference :

"To consider, with particular reference to the needs of pupils whose parents are overseas or liable to frequent moves within England and Wales, the criteria used by local education authorities for determining the need for pupils to have a boarding education ; to consider the arrangements made by local education authorities in England and Wales for granting financial assistance to such pupils; and to make recommendations."

2. We met on six occasions, and at our fourth meeting we received oral evidence from Mr. H. Houghton, C.B.E., Deputy Educational Adviser, Colonial Office, Lt. Col. E. E. Lowe, Royal Army Educational Corps, and Mr. E. W. Fearnside, Assistant Staff Manager, Barclays Bank, D.C.O. We requested and received written evidence from 55 local education authorities on the question of treatment of education allowances, other allowances received by parents working overseas, and salaries expressed in terms of foreign currencies : and on the subject—Appendix II of our Report—of the extent of present assistance with the cost of boarding education and the amount of provision in maintained schools we received information from all local education authorities in England and Wales.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

3. The first part of our terms of reference was "to consider, with particular reference to the needs of pupils whose parents are overseas or liable to frequent moves within England and Wales, the criteria used by local education authorities for determining the need for pupils to have a boarding education". Under Section 8(2) of the Education Act, 1944, a local education authority is required to have regard, *inter alia*, "to the expediency of securing the provision of boarding accommodation, either in boarding schools or otherwise, for pupils for whom education as boarders is considered by their parents and by the authority to be desirable". We interpreted our terms of reference as meaning that we should concern ourselves with circumstances in which the issue is whether or not boarding education for the child is desirable, and not with circumstances in which education suitable to the age, aptitude and ability of the child cannot, in the opinion of the authority, be provided except by means of a boarding education. In the latter case the question of financial assistance—the second part of our terms of reference—does not arise, since in such circumstances local education authorities have a statutory duty to remit the whole of the boarding fee if the child is in a maintained school, or pay the whole of the fees if the child is in a non-maintained school where the authority have provided him with a place. We were in fact concerned with the general run of cases in which, normally, the parent takes the initiative in seeking boarding education for the child and approaches the authority for advice and for assistance towards meeting the cost. Such assistance, if and when given, is given under Section 61(2) of the Education Act, 1944, in the case of boarders at maintained schools, and under Section 81 in the case of boarding pupils in non-maintained schools.

4. We wish to emphasise that in all these cases parents would be well advised to consult local education authorities about boarding at an early stage, as authorities naturally dislike being faced with *faits accomplis*. We hope that employers will encourage parents to do this.

5. The last published guidance on criteria for selection as boarders in cases of the kind just described was given in two documents which were issued in 1947—the Ministry of Education's Administrative Memorandum No. 225 and the Association of Education Committees' "Memorandum on Education for Children as Boarders". Much of what follows in this section of our report is an amalgamation and restatement of the advice contained in those documents, as a good deal of what was included in them remains valid.

6. Although we have looked at the problem as a general one, liable to arise in the case of children of parents in all walks of life, the impetus to our examination of it derived from the attention focused by the Report of the Advisory Committee on Recruiting* on the need for servicemen to be able to make suitable arrangements for the education of their children in England and Wales while they themselves are abroad or liable to move frequently within the United Kingdom. It is indeed important that the nation should recognise the needs of its citizens who work overseas, and we hope that one result of our recommendations will be a greater uniformity of practice, and of approach, between local education authorities in dealing with applications from such parents: differences of treatment between one local education authority and another have sometimes been a source of grievance.

7. Although we hope that our report will lead to greater uniformity of practice in these matters among local education authorities (and we set out below the categories of cases on which we think there might be common agreement about the desirability of boarding education) we do not intend that our recommendations should lead to a situation in which financial assistance would be given automatically in cases which came within the categories we mention and would be automatically refused in all others. We experienced difficulty in defining our categories with any degree of exactness, and if only for that reason it would always be necessary to consider carefully the individual aspects of any particular case.

8. *Age range and academic ability.* In all our considerations we had children of secondary school age chiefly in mind. We accept the commonly held view that children of primary school age should as far as possible live in a home environment and attend day schools. If young children cannot be with their parents abroad and receive a primary education at or near the overseas station, every effort should be made for them to live with relatives or friends in this country and attend local day schools. We consider that these children should be assisted to attend boarding schools only in exceptional circumstances.

9. A tradition appears to have grown up among some authorities that assistance with the cost of boarding education should be given only if the pupil concerned is suitable for a secondary grammar education. We think that such an attitude is wrong in principle. The need of a pupil of secondary school age to have a boarding education will in most cases be entirely independent of the pupil's academic ability, and we hope that in deciding whether or not to give assistance

*Cmd. 545. Published by H.M.S.O. October, 1958. Price 4s. 6d.

authorities will be influenced only by factors of the kind described in the next few paragraphs.

10. *General criteria.* From our consideration of the various circumstances which cause parents to seek a boarding education for their children and ask for assistance with the cost of it we concluded that there are four categories of cases in which applications for assistance can most readily be entertained. These categories are :

- (i) Cases in which both parents are abroad.
- (ii) Cases in which the parents are in England and Wales but are liable to frequent moves from one area to another.
- (iii) Cases in which home circumstances are seriously prejudicial to the normal development of the child.
- (iv) Cases in which a special aptitude in the child requires special training which can be given to the child only by means of a boarding education.

Subject to what is said in the next five paragraphs we recommend local education authorities to give favourable consideration to cases coming within these categories.

11. *Parents abroad.* The first point to consider about children whose parents are abroad is whether or not it may be reasonably assumed that the child will live and work in England or Wales when he or she grows up. In the case of a soldier on a tour of duty overseas this question will probably be easy to determine, but in other cases it may be more difficult. We would, for instance, expect authorities to be reluctant to assist with the cost of educating a child whose parents appear to have permanently given up residence in this country, and we would see no reason for urging them to give such aid. The second point is whether or not suitable education for the child is available near the parents' overseas residence. The language of instruction in the overseas school will normally have to be English, and it may be necessary to make sure that the child, when his abilities justify it, can be adequately prepared for appropriate examinations recognised in this country. It may also be necessary to have regard to climatic conditions in the country concerned. Even if suitable education is available overseas, a boarding education here for the child may be desirable to meet the need for reasonable continuity of education. We would not argue that continuity of schooling is essential at all ages—although it is well known, for instance, that some servicemen's children suffer, educationally, as the result of too frequent breaks in their education—but we consider it particularly important that there should be continuity from the age of about 13.

12. *Parents in England and Wales, but liable to frequent moves.* We considered carefully whether for this category we could give definite guidance on what might be regarded, in terms of particular occupations or periods of time, as frequent moves, but we concluded that we could not. To some extent nearly all occupations involve a liability to move, and while applications on these grounds should be fully investigated we could not recommend that favourable consideration should be given to a wide range of cases : for instance, a liability on the part of the parent to move every three or four years would not necessarily constitute a sufficient reason for accepting his application. The important factor to be taken into account is, as we said in the last paragraph, reasonable continuity of education for the child, especially from the age of about 13.

13. *Children of Servicemen.* In view of our terms of reference and the evidence presented to us we have devoted particular attention to the needs of children whose parents are in the Armed Forces, practically all of whom, we understand, fall potentially within the two categories dealt with above. We cannot, however, accept the contention that membership of the Services should constitute an automatically valid claim for assistance with the cost of a boarding education. If unreasonable demands are not to be made on local education authorities, we think that other circumstances, such as an imminent overseas posting or frequent changes of station, ought to be shown. We recommend that authorities should normally accept the usual six months warning of an overseas posting as a valid ground for considering assistance.

14. *Home circumstances seriously prejudicial to normal development.* Many factors in the home may make circumstances there seriously prejudicial to the normal development of the child, and it is clearly not desirable to attempt to lay down a rigid definition of this category. We did, however, feel that there were some common sets of circumstances which local education authorities would obviously take into account in determining the need for boarding education. Among them is lack of suitable parental care, an example of which is where one of the parents is dead, absent or for some other good reason unable to look after the child, and no other suitable care is possible. There will also be cases in which the mental or physical ill health of one or both of the parents, or incompatibility between the parents, or physical conditions in the home, would be so serious in their effect on the child that most people would agree that the child should have a boarding education. Really bad cases of these latter types would be matters for the Children's Committee under the various provisions of child protection legislation.

15. In cases of the kind described in the last paragraph the desirability of boarding education will, of course, depend largely on the extent to which the development of the child is adversely affected, and local education authorities will naturally view borderline cases in various ways. We doubt, however, if, to take an extreme case, authorities will wish to assist with the cost of boarding education if the only reason for sending the child to a boarding school is that the mother wishes to pursue a full-time occupation simply in order to increase the family income.

16. *Special aptitude in the child necessitating special training.* Cases in this category are comparatively rare, but authorities sometimes receive applications for assistance with the cost of boarding education on the ground that the child has a special aptitude for a career for which training must be begun well before the statutory age for leaving school. In dealing with such applications authorities will have to decide whether the child is exceptionally suited for its intended career.

17. *Other categories.* We know that authorities will be asked to consider applications for reasons outside those given above. A large number of these applications may be made on grounds of parental preference for boarding education. A number of authorities are prepared to give assistance if it can be established that in the family concerned there exists a tradition of boarding education. We suggest that such matters should continue to be left entirely to an authority's discretion. In regard to cases based on parental preference we wish to do no more than repeat the view expressed by the Minister in Administrative Memorandum No. 244, and endorsed in the A.E.C. Memorandum, that the

lack of a school of a particular religious denomination within daily travelling distance of the child's home is not of itself a sufficient ground for considering that assistance with the cost of boarding education is justified.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

18. The power of a local education authority to assist with the payment of the fees of pupils at non-maintained schools derives from Section 81 of the Education Act, 1944, and the Regulations for Scholarships and Other Benefits, 1945, made under that Section. The arrangements are subject to the Minister's approval. Similar powers in relation to boarders in maintained schools are contained in Section 61(2)(b) of the 1944 Act. Arrangements made under this Section are not subject to the Minister's approval but are usually similar to those made under Section 81.

19. In considering what recommendations we should make we had regard primarily, in addition to the inherent nature of our problem, to existing schemes for granting educational maintenance allowances for children over the compulsory school age and for giving assistance to students at university. The latter have been subject to triennial review and at the time of our deliberations were being examined in a more fundamental way, while the former had been thoroughly investigated by a Working Party which had reported in July 1957*. We concerned ourselves with recommendations which were both reasonable for their purpose and generally defensible by comparison with what already obtains in other circumstances.

20. *Present arrangements.* These vary greatly between individual local education authorities, in detail, but in general some 35 authorities operate an income scale which requires no parental contribution when the parents' net income is £300 a year or below, and then requires a contribution of £10 for every £50 of additional income, while some 33 authorities use a scale which ascends at the same rate but starts from a "no contribution" point of £400 a year. The scales of most other authorities fall between these two points.

21. *The cost of boarding education.* Most authorities have regard at present only to the actual fees for tuition and boarding. If, however, the aim of avoiding hardship to the parents is to be realised it is probable that more than just the fees must be brought into the reckoning. We suggest that the cost of boarding education should be regarded as comprising :

- (i) tuition and boarding fees ;
- (ii) other recognised school fees of general application ;
- (iii) the additional cost of clothing, i.e., any cost in excess of that which would be incurred if the child were at a day school.

Train fares between home and school may also have to be considered. While we consider that these items must be taken into account we realise that it would be administratively inconvenient to have to calculate the precise cost of them in each case. Moreover, although parents incur extra expenditure, besides fees, in sending their children to boarding schools they also save some money, on food at least, by having the children away from home for a large part of the year.

*Report of the Working Party on Educational Maintenance Allowances. Published by H.M.S.O. 1957. Price 1s. 3d.

22. From such information as was available to us it appeared that in the majority of cases the savings on food, etc., while the child was away from home during term time, which might amount to between £40 and £50 a year, would roughly balance the extra expenditure incurred under 21 (ii) and (iii) above and on travel, and that therefore the essential starting point of our income scale—the highest income at which no contribution should be required from the parent—was the income at which parents could reasonably meet the “extra” expenditure from the “savings” but could not, without hardship, begin to contribute towards the actual fees.

23. *The Income Scale.* At the lowest income level, i.e., that of a family living entirely on National Assistance, the parents would not only be unable to contribute towards the fees but would also stand in need of full assistance with the cost of the extra items. This is because National Assistance would not be payable in respect of the child while he was away at school and the parents would therefore have no savings out of which they might meet the extra expenditure. An average one-child family in this position would have a total annual income of just over £300; and they would need positive help for the child from the local education authority to the value of at least £50 a year for the extra expenses mentioned above. (The precise amount would, of course, need to be determined separately in each case.) This help could not be dispensed with immediately the family income rose above the level of National Assistance: it would need to be reduced gradually. If its value were reduced by £10 for every £30 of income above £300 it would cease to be available when the income rose to £450 a year, and the authority would then be left with financial responsibility for just the tuition and boarding fees.

24. Having regard to authorities' existing schemes of assistance (see paragraph 20 above), most of which were approved several years ago, we concluded that an annual income of £450, with one child in the family, was a reasonable point at which to start our scale. Above that level parents begin to be able to contribute towards the tuition and boarding fees.

25. *Rate of increase of parental contributions.* The Working Party on Educational Maintenance Allowances recommended for their purposes a scale which at most points progressed at the rate of £1 for every £3 of parental income. If, however, this rate of progression were applied to parental contributions to the cost of boarding the stage would soon be reached—with our starting point it would be below £800 per year—at which greater parental contributions would be demanded than are required now under the least generous arrangements in operation. Under most present schemes the rate of progression is £1 for every £5 of income (although many authorities appear to express this rate in terms of £10 for every £50 with no intermediate steps). The present scales for university students are based on a rate of progression of £1 for every £7 of parental income above the starting point.

26. Whether to proceed at a rate of £1 in £5 or £1 in £7 raises another critical question in the construction of an income scale for assistance with the cost of boarding. Inevitably there comes a point when the parental contribution in fact equals the normal full cost of tuition and boarding fees. If this point occurs at too low an income level, say £1,000 per year, the aim of avoiding hardship will not be realised. If, however, it occurs at a level well above that at which many families regard boarding education for their children not only as practicable—with perhaps some “sacrifice”—but as the normal pattern of education in

their way of life, discontent will be caused and there will be undue pressure on authorities to give financial assistance in cases where parental preference is the sole reason for boarding education. If, for instance, the average inclusive fees for a good boarding education in a recognised efficient school are assumed to be £300 a year then, with a starting point of £450 a year and a rate of progression of £1 in £5, the parental contribution equals the full fees when the parental income is £1,950 a year. With the same starting point and a rate of progression of £1 in £7 the contribution does not equal the fees until the parental income is £2,550. We agreed to recommend a rate of progression of £1 in £5, and the resulting income scale is set out in Appendix I.

27. Calculation of gross income. The argument set forth in the previous paragraphs is based on an assumption that in a family of father, mother and one child the net annual income for assessment purposes will be in fact the gross income. Our next task was to consider what resources at the disposal of parents should be regarded as gross income, and what allowances should be made in converting gross income to net income for assessment purposes. On the question of gross income we agreed that the resources to be taken into account should be those described in detail in paragraphs 32-41 of the Report of the Working Party on Educational Maintenance Allowances. Briefly these are :

Total gross earnings of husband and wife, including overtime, bonuses, commission and the value of other emoluments such as meals provided at reduced or no cost.

Income derived, after allowance has been made for the cost of providing services, from taking in lodgers or paying guests. (It is suggested that the first 40s. 0d. per week paid by each lodger should be disregarded.)

Unearned income, i.e., that derived from savings and investments and pensions from employment.

Regular payments from the Social Services, subject to a disregard of £1 per week where, as with workmen's compensation, disability and civilian injury pension, disablement benefits, maternity allowances and special National Assistance allowances to blind or tubercular persons, the payment contains an element to meet exceptional personal requirements.

Income derived from lettings.

28. Conversion of gross income into net income. The purpose of this operation is to place families on a broadly equal footing by taking into account differences in their size and composition and variations in other costs arising from circumstances over which the parents have little or no effective control. We thought that to achieve this broad equality it would in most cases be sufficient to take account only of the factors set out below. Authorities should, of course, be free to exercise their discretion where exceptional circumstances require it.

29. Housing costs. Family circumstances vary according to whether the family own or rent the house in which they live. We agree with the Working Party on Educational Maintenance Allowances that an equitable and administratively convenient method of equalising the relative positions of tenants and owner occupiers would be to make the following adjustments to gross incomes :

Tenant

No adjustment unless accommodation is occupied rent free ; if so, add gross annual value.

Owner Occupier

Add to gross income the net annual value of the house ; deduct mortgage interest and ground rent.

30. *Allowances for other dependants.* In considering what allowances in respect of other dependants should be deducted from gross income we were acutely aware of wide differences in present practices for other purposes. The Working Party on Educational Maintenance Allowances recommended deductions of £50 a year in respect of each other dependent child under the age of 18, £75 a year in respect of dependants aged 18-21, and £94 a year in respect of older dependants. These recommendations were based on National Assistance rates and the figures would now have to be raised to take account of subsequent increases in those rates. Even so, however, they would not be as large as the deduction of £170 for each dependant which applies in the calculation of contributions expected from parents towards the cost of university education.

31. We did not think that it was necessary for our purposes to relate deductions for dependants directly to National Assistance rates, but on the other hand we saw some difficulty in adopting the flat rate of £170 a year used in the calculation of university awards. For one thing, a parent who helps his son after the age of 18, while he is at university, may be said to suffer a greater degree of hardship than parents whose children begin earning as soon as they leave secondary school, and he may to that extent stand in need of greater relief. This apart, however, the age range of boarding school pupils is more than twice that of university students and begins at a much younger age. If one child in the family goes to boarding school at a comparatively early age the chances of other dependent children in the family being very young are much greater than in a family with a son or daughter at university. The Working Party on Educational Maintenance Allowances estimated that the cost of maintaining adolescent boys and girls—including the cost of food, clothing, pocket money, holidays and some allowance for heating and lighting but not for rent—at a reasonable standard of living was £130 a year for 15 year olds, £140 for 16 year olds and £150 for 17 year olds. Obviously it would cost less to maintain younger children. We decided that the best way of solving our problem was to have several age bands, and accordingly we recommend that deductions from gross annual income in respect of other dependants should be :

- £100 for a child aged up to 12 years
- £125 for a child aged from 12 to 15 years
- £150 for a child aged from 15 to 18 years
- £170 for a dependant aged over 18 years.

It so happens that the first three allowances suggested above correspond to the current Income Tax allowances for dependent children. We do not, of course, intend that they should move up or down in accordance with changes in Income Tax allowances, which may be made for reasons unconnected with personal hardship.

32. If a parent incurs expenditure on the education of other members of the family it may be necessary to consider whether the allowances mentioned in the last paragraph should be increased. It might be reasonable, for instance, to make a further allowance in respect of the parental contribution towards the cost of a dependant at university with a state scholarship or major award. It might be less reasonable, on the other hand, to make a special allowance for the expenses of a young child at an independent school when a suitable place for the child would have been available in a maintained school.

33. *Educational allowances.* A number of employers make education allowances available to their employees if conditions of service, e.g., liability to service

abroad, make it desirable that their children should go to a boarding school. We had evidence of private firms paying allowances of between £50 and £175 a year for this purpose, and we know that allowances are payable to civil servants abroad, and to Foreign Office and Commonwealth Relations Office officials. The largest group of potential recipients is, however, formed by Servicemen. Education allowances for Servicemen's children were first introduced in 1955, and all Servicemen who go overseas or are subject to frequent postings (at intervals of four years or less) may be eligible for them. The present rates are : For a child attending boarding school as a boarder, an amount equivalent to the fees which the parent is required to pay for tuition and/or board after deduction of grants made by local education authorities or other public bodies or benefactors, subject to a maximum of :

£150 a year for the first child

£175 a year for the second child

£200 a year for the third child

(In practice this means that a Serviceman is able, subject to the maxima shown above, to obtain as an educational allowance the amount of the parental contribution asked for by the local education authority.) When the Serviceman is abroad the allowance is not subject to Income Tax.

34. When Service Education Allowances were introduced in 1955 the Minister of Education suggested, in Circular No. 295, that in dealing with applications from a Serviceman an authority should assume that he was eligible for the full amount of the allowance and should treat the sum as part of his gross income for the purposes of their income scale. Of 44 authorities who supplied us with information on this point 33 act on the Minister's suggestion, 5 others disregard the allowances altogether, and 6 treat them as bursaries and deduct them from the amount payable by the authority. After considering the various alternatives we agreed that the method suggested by the Minister in Circular No. 295, i.e., to treat educational allowances as part of gross income and to assess parents accordingly, is the one most likely to ensure equality of treatment among parents, and we recommend authorities to adopt it.

35. *Overseas salaries.* When employees are sent overseas by employers in this country they are usually paid special allowances (apart from any education allowances) which are variously called cost-of-living, overseas, inducement or expatriation allowances and are intended to enable the employees to maintain a standard of living regarded as comparable to that which they would have enjoyed in the United Kingdom. The Treasury, for instance, have agreed arrangements with the National Staff Side whereby Foreign Services Allowances, based on an annual return of the prices of scheduled commodities at the overseas stations concerned, are payable to civil servants overseas. In cases such as these there is usually little difficulty in distinguishing specific overseas allowances from basic United Kingdom salary and of the 41 authorities who supplied us with information on this matter 36 stated that their practice is to disregard completely, as a part of gross income, all overseas or similar allowances. One authority counts them in full, and another draws a distinction between cost-of-living allowances and inducement or expatriation allowances, ignoring the former but counting half the latter : the other three have more complicated arrangements. We recommend that overseas, cost-of-living, inducement or expatriation allowances which are clearly distinguishable from basic salary and paid to maintain the employee's United Kingdom standard of living should not be regarded as part of gross income for purposes of assessment.

36. Difficulty (to which the representatives of the Colonial Office particularly drew our attention) sometimes arises when a parent is employed by an overseas government or firm on a salary which is related primarily to local conditions and needs and not to conditions in the United Kingdom. In such circumstances the salary may not contain a specific overseas or similar allowance even though it has been set at a sufficiently high level to attract British applicants. We would not wish to see parents in this position placed at a disadvantage compared either with parents at home or parents overseas on salaries made up of clearly defined components of the kind we have mentioned, but it is difficult to suggest a precise formula for discounting the hidden overseas cost-of-living or expatriation element in the inclusive salary, and we did not undertake the task. We understand that the Awards Branch of the Ministry of Education, who have to deal with this problem in assessing university awards, are willing to advise authorities on the approximate value in the United Kingdom of £1,000 in various countries abroad: their calculations are based on the typical United Kingdom salary likely to be earned by a civil servant posted overseas, and the current Foreign Service Allowance to which he is entitled if he is accompanied by his wife and not provided with accommodation. While we recommend authorities to seek this advice when a clear apportionment of salary cannot be made we must emphasise that the Ministry's Awards Branch regard their calculation as a first-instance guide only and are always willing, in the case of university awards, to consider appeals for different treatment.

37. *More than one child at boarding school.* When two or more children in one family are eligible for assistance with boarding education we consider it reasonable to follow the normal practice in other fields of requiring only one parental contribution. We recommend that the total contribution required from the parent should be that which would be required if there were one child only, except where it is to the parent's advantage to be assessed in respect of each child separately. (Under our proposed arrangements a parent with a gross income of £1,500 a year and two children, aged 12 and 14, at boarding school would be asked for one contribution of £210, his gross income in these circumstances being also the net income for scale purposes. A parent in a similar situation but with a gross income of £600 a year would benefit from being assessed for each child separately, with a deduction of £125 from gross income in respect of each child in turn; i.e., he would be asked for two contributions of £5 each on a net income of £475 instead of one contribution of £30 on a net income of £600.)

38. *Inter-authority payments for pupils in maintained boarding schools.* It sometimes happens that a parent who is aware of his liability to posting overseas, or of some other personal circumstance which might endanger continuity of education for his child, obtains an offer of a place for the child in a maintained boarding school or hostel outside his home area. He then finds that the child cannot take up the place because the home local education authority is unwilling to pay the out-county tuition fee. Parents themselves cannot be charged tuition fees for their children at maintained schools. We recommend that authorities should review their practice in this matter and be more ready than they have hitherto been to pay the out-county tuition fees in cases likely to fall within the categories we have mentioned in the first part of our report. It is desirable that the fullest use should be made of boarding places at maintained schools throughout the country.

39. Our terms of reference did not require us to consider the extent of boarding provision or any increase that may be needed. Moreover, in the first part of our report we have suggested criteria for selection which are substantially the same as those which were recommended in 1947. Nevertheless, the representatives of the Services and the Colonial Office drew our attention to deficiencies in the present provision of boarding places, and it may be that after local education authorities have had an adequate opportunity of considering the implications of this report on criteria for selection and financial arrangements the Minister will wish to consider asking for an examination of the question of provision. Against this possibility, and as a background to this report we give in Appendix II an account of the present position.

(Signed) :

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APPENDIX I

Recommended Scale of Parental Contributions

*Net annual income not exceeding	Contribution	*Net annual income not exceeding	Contribution	*Net annual income not exceeding	Contribution
£	£	£	£	£	£
450	—	50	120	50	240
475	5	75	125	75	245
500	10	1,100	130	1,700	250
25	15	25	135	25	255
50	20	50	140	50	260
75	25	75	145	75	265
600	30	1,200	150	1,800	270
25	35	25	155	25	275
50	40	50	160	50	280
75	45	75	165	75	285
700	50	1,300	170	1,900	290
25	55	25	175	25	295
50	60	50	180	50	300
75	65	75	185	75	305
800	70	1,400	190	2,000	310
25	75	25	195	25	315
50	80	50	200	50	320
75	85	75	205	75	325
900	90	1,500	210	2,100	330
25	95	25	215	2,125	335
50	100	50	220	50	340
75	105	1,575	225	75	345
1,000	110	1,600	230	2,200	350
1,025	115	25	235		

*Paragraphs 28-36 explain the method recommended for converting gross to net income.

This Appendix is illustrative only, and intermediate steps may, of course, be interpolated in the scale shown above.

*Boarding Provision in Maintained Schools,
and Assisted Places in non-Maintained Schools in England and Wales*

The information shown in the tables below was obtained from answers to a questionnaire which we sent to all local education authorities in England and Wales in January, 1960. It was not possible for authorities to be certain in every case whether a pupil was pursuing a secondary grammar course or was following some other course of secondary education, and to that extent the tables may be in error.

Boarding provision in maintained schools in England and Wales

January 1960

<i>Secondary Grammar Places</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Occupied by pupils who cannot otherwise be educated according to their ages, aptitudes and abilities	194	185	379
Occupied by assisted pupils	2,527	869	3,396
Total places available*	5,353	1,701	7,054

<i>Other Secondary Places</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Occupied by pupils who cannot otherwise be educated according to their ages, aptitudes and abilities	6	57	63
Occupied by assisted pupils	866	279	1,145
Total places available*	1,025	420	1,445

*Out of a total of 8,499 boarding places available in maintained secondary schools, 4,983 are occupied by pupils whose fees are wholly or partly remitted. Nearly all of the remaining 3,516 places—there is a small number of vacancies in the grammar schools—are occupied by pupils whose parents pay the full boarding fee, usually because the parent's income is too high for him to qualify for help on the income scale.

*Boarding pupils in non-maintained schools for whom local education
authorities in England and Wales accept full or part responsibility for
the payment of fees*

January 1960

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pupils who cannot otherwise be educated according to their ages, aptitudes and abilities :			
Secondary grammar pupils	107	113	220
Other secondary age pupils	41	17	58
	148	130	278
Assisted pupils :			
Secondary grammar pupils	2,905	1,709	4,614
Secondary pupils other than grammar	1,272	486	1,758
Undifferentiated	322	231	553
	4,499	2,426	6,925